

Howard County Consumer Affairs Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2015

Prior to the meeting, members of the Board greeted Jill Bussey who will soon be confirmed as a new board member. Jill and the Board discussed their backgrounds and interest in serving on the Board. Becky also shared information about the inquiries OCA has received since the beginning of the fiscal year, particularly a growth in the number of inquiries OCA is receiving residents of targeted zip codes.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Richard Green at 7:40p.m.

- Present: Richard Green, Sue Rogan, Felicia West, Jerome Jackson, and Katherine Bornstein
- Absent: Ashlyn Hood

Minutes of the January 2015 meeting were approved as read

Election of Officers – The Board elected Richard Green to continue as Chair and Jerome Jackson to serve as Vice Chair by acclamation.

Upcoming Events / Announcements

- National Consumer Protection Week - March 1-7. OCA will release and promote a new factsheet on debt collection. The copy of the draft is attached to these minutes for Board review and suggestions.
- Money Matters Fair - March 14 at Long Reach High School. The event is sponsored by Making Change and OCA is on the planning committee. OCA will help staff the Department of Citizen Services (DCS) table and is working with the Office on Aging on preparing a presentation on Caring for Aging Parents.
- Money Smart Week – April 18 to 25. Sue announced that MD CASH will be sponsoring an information summit on April 18 at the Federal Reserve offices in Baltimore. The summit will provide hands-on assistance to anyone who is interested in providing financial education.
- Green Fest – April 18 at Howard Community College
- FIRN will be sponsoring a naturalization ceremony to be held in the Banneker Room of the George Howard building on April 18 from 10 to 12. Fifty people will be sworn in and a total attendance of around 300 is expected. OCA will discuss having a table at the event with information about OCA in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Chin.
- Howard County Housing Fair – April 25 at Long Reach High School – OCA will help staff the DCS table and will participate in a landlord-tenant workshop.

Other Business

- Becky reported that the Board has \$472 remaining in its budget. Becky will provide the Board with some suggestions how to spend these funds for its consideration at the next meeting. Preliminary ideas include OCA labeled “giveaways” for event tables or the promotion of an OCA event (possibly with FIRN).

Meeting adjourned at 8:10

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD WILL BE ON MARCH 4 AT 7:00 P.M.
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM
6751 COLUMBIA GATEWAY DRIVE
COLUMBIA, MD 21046